

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2438

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000

NATIONAL LONG DISTANCE TELECOM MARKET

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances and compulsion leading to the decision to deregulate the national long distance telecom market; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to ensure that the activities of different private and Government agencies operating in the field are harmonised to the best advantage and service of the nation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The Government had made a commitment in WTO to review the opening of the National Long distance telecom sector in 1999. New Telecom Policy announced in 1999 envisaged opening up of the National Long Distance service to private sector participation to provide competition, choice to the subscribers and to promote setting up long distance bandwidth capacity in the country.

(b) The Government and private agencies shall provide service in accordance with the terms and condition of the licence agreement leading to healthy competition and better quality of service to the subscribers.